MYRICA CERIFERA.

Wax Myrtle.

PLATE XLIII.

Almost every region of the United States produces varieties of the Wax myrtle. Michaux considers them all as belonging to one species, a conclusion which is warranted by the great number of intermediate sizes, and forms of leaf, which may be observed between the different extremes. Pursh, however, has chosen to distinguish three species which bear wax, and which he names *cerifera* after Linnæus, *Caroliniensis* from Willdenow, and *Pennsylvanica* from Lamarck. The *Wax myrtle* or *Bayberry*, as it is often called, which is common in New England, varies in height from one to seven or eight feet. It is found in every kind of soil from the borders of swamps to the tops of barren hills, and is very much influenced in its size and appearance, by the place in which it happens to grow.

Myrica cerifera